

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

ACDA-05 OMB-01 /074 W

----- 032080

R 161439Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 639

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, LE, SY

SUBJECT: ISRAELI POSTURE TOWARD EVENTS IN LEBANON

1. WIRELESS FILE OF MARCH 15 CARRIES REPRINT OF NEW YORK TIMES STORY (UNDATED) TO EFFECT THAT DEFMIN PERES "WARNED THAT ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO REACTIF ITS BORDER SECURITY WAS AFFECTED" BY THE MILITARY COUP IN LEBANON. FOR THE RECORD, FOLLOWING IS FULL QUOTE AS GIVEN IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM CORRESPONDENT OF YEDIOT AHARANOT AND PRINTED MARCH 12:

QUOTE: ...ISRAEL HAS THE JOB OF A PASSIVE OBSERVER OF EVENTS IN LEBANON BUT ANY CHANGE WHICH MIGHT UNDERMINE BORDER SECURITY, ENDANGER THE INHABITANTS, SETTLEMENTS OR ROADS WILL OBLIGE THE TAKING OF COUNTERMEASURES."
END QUOTE.

2. PRIMIN RABIN PREVIOUS DAY WAS REPORTED BY MEDIA TO HAVE SAID THAT QUOTE: IF THE SITUATION IN LEBANON
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CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE IT IS LIKELY THAT THIS WILL

POSE NEW PROBLEMS BEFORE US WHICH CANNOT BE EXPECTED
TODAY, AND ALSO IN DIRECTIONS THAT CANNOT BE ANTICIPATED
IN ADVANCE. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: THESE ARE THE ONLY TWO PUBLIC STATEMENTS
ON LEBANON BY ISRAELI LEADERS OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE
IN PAST FIVE DAYS. THE ABSENCE OF SUCH STATEMENTS
IS IN ITSELF OF NOTE, AND IS PROBABLY AN INDICATION
OF HOW POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS THE SITUATION IS JUDGED
TO BE. MOST NEWSPAPERS HAVE CAUTIONED THE GOVERN-
MENT TO CONTINUE TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT.
TOON

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NNN

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